Rs. 571-12 chs. which approximated more to its market value. The heavy assessment on land was particularly burdensome as the soil was not fertile enough and it was wrong to fix *taravila* and assessment without reference to the income deriavable from land.

The relation between *taravila* and market value was not clear from the rules. This led to difficulties. No evidence was taken to ascertain the market value which was fixed by the *Proverthikar*. The result would be the relinquishment of town lands and the migration of people from towns. There was also the risk to approximate the assessment generally to the rates now in force for town lands when the resettlement was conducted. An examination of the *puduval* cases disposed of during the last five years would reveal the extent of the hardships and irregularities.

The *Puduval Rules* in force should be immediately revised. As the *taravila* for town lands was fixed with reference to the market value, the assessment should only be the same as that for ordinary *puduvals*. Final decisions in *puduval* cases should be published in the *Gazette* or under a new series of reports of the Travancore revenue decisions. The Tahsildars should fix the *taravila* only after a personal inspection.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Kunjuraman Vaidyan, you will have noticed that in my opening address to the Assembly yesterday, I touched upon the question of grievances felt by the people in respect of the present Town Lands Rules. From that you will gather that the whole subject is under the consideration of the Government ; and your representation will be taken into consideration before the matter is finally disposed of.

11. Suggestions for improvement of Land Revenue Administration with special reference to Pakuthi Cutcherries.

MR. M. SULTAN MOHIDEEN (*Member, Nominated*) spoke about certain defects and irregularities of the *pakuthi* officials and made suggestions for their improvement.

The *pakuthi* formed the unit of land revenue administration and exercised considerable influence in promoting the weal and woe of the people. The pay of the *Proverthikars*, etc., was not commensurate with their status, responsibilities or work; and those who misappropriated Government money would not leave the poor people free.

The rule that survey numbers should be noted in the tax receipt was not observed. Complaints on this score remained unheeded. As the *pattadar* was not exempt from liability to pay tax even on a land mortgaged by him, the *Proverthikar* could with impunity now realise tax from two persons. The low percentage of demand notices actually served was well-known. As the *pakuthi* office was not known to maintain a register of houses showing serial numbers, it was not clear by what trick of *Kuttichattan* the number of the house is noted on the reverse of the demand notice.

The weapons of the Land Conservancy Regulation, the Revenue Recovery Regulation, *Pokkuvaravu Rules*, *Puduval Rules*, etc., available in the armoury of the *Proverthikar*, deterred the people from lodging complaints against him. *Poramboke* encroachments were detected and taken up according to the whim or prejudice of the *Proverthikar*. The *Proverthikar* being looked upon as the local representative of the Government, an unpopular *Proverthikar* should be transferred immediately. The *Proverthikars* did not hesitate to oppress the people who would not give them illegal gratification.

A portion of a registered holding would suddenly become the property of a stranger who could produce a *patta* and a tax receipt. Stones could arbitrarily be planted and transferred. Lands in respect of which tax had been paid were sold in auction without any remedy available to the ryot, the receipt in whose possession did not show the survey numbers in respect of which payment had been made.

A separate register should be opened in the taluk offices to note complaints about *pakuthi* officials. All such complaints should be disposed of within three

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months. This register should be examined by the Peishkars and the Land Revenue Commissioner in the course of their inspections. The Tahsildar when visiting the *pakuthies* should make independent and confidential enquiries about the *pakuthi* officials ; and their reports should be embodied in their diaries and reviewed by the Peishkars. The pay should be increased and suitable men recruited. The Peishkars should also look into these things during their *jamabandi* inspections.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Sultan Mohideen, there has been a good deal of smoke in what you have said, but I have a suspicion that there may be just a little fire also underlying it. All these matters will receive consideration. But referring to a remark of yours regarding that sprite, I must tell you straight that, of the ways of *Kuttichattan*, Government have no knowledge.

12. Concessional registry of lands.

MR. AIYAN KALI (*Member, Nominated*) represented that about 75 per cent. of the lands earmarked for assignment to members of the depressed classes were unfit either for purposes of cultivation or for habitation. This was the reason why any considerable number of Pulayas and others had not freely availed themselves of the concession. Survey Nos. 776/1 P. and 778/1 were mentioned as instances in point. It was therefore suggested that lands useful for cultivation should alone be earmarked for the purpose in order that the full benefit of the policy of concessional registry might accrue to the members of his community.

He then requested that certain lands, particulars of which are given below, might be registered in the names of the members of the depressed classes :—

(*a*) The portion of the reserved forest comprised in Survey Nos. 441/1 to 444/10 in the Ottasekharamangalam *pakuthi*, Neyyattinkara taluk.

(*b*) A portion of 300 acres of land comprised in Survey No. 185/1 in Porvazhi *pakuthi*, Kunnattur taluk.

(*c*) All *tarisu* lands not earmarked for registry on concessional terms, on which Pulayas and Parayas have already entered upon for cultivation.

The Member also made the following suggestions :—

(1) The Sirkar Vakil may be directed to conduct on behalf of the members of the depressed classes law suits for the recovery of lands encroached upon by their neighbours, or as an alternative, the court fees required for such suits might be dispensed with.

(2) Occupation, by others, of lands earmarked for depressed classes should be vacated.

(3) A burial ground in Trivandrum town for the use of the Pulayas should be provided.

(4) Registry should be ordered of one acre of land in every taluk for the Hindu Pulayas to erect temples.

(5) As the Protector of Depressed classes could not find time in the midst of his other official work to devote his entire attention to the needs of the depressed classes, he should either be divested of his other official work, or a separate officer to look after the interests of the depressed classes should be appointed.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Aiyan Kali, on the general subject of *puduval* lands to depressed classes, you will find that I have touched in my address delivered yesterday.

2. In the matter of burial grounds, your suggestion will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government without delay.

13. Sambavars and registry of lands.

MR. P. YESUDIAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the needs of the Sambavars were two-fold ; firstly, the assignment of ten cents of building site and secondly, of 3 acres of arable land for each family. The complaint was that the lands earmarked for these purposes were unfit, as they were either

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